



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.  
United States Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Van Driver for Senior Citizens Pleads Guilty to Sexually Assaulting Elderly Client**

**Washington, D.C.** - A 57-year-old District of Columbia man, Tilaye Teshome Wake, has pled guilty to one count of Attempted First Degree Sexual Abuse of a Ward, Patient, Client, or Prisoner, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Wake, who entered his guilty plea yesterday, is scheduled to be sentenced by the Honorable Michael Rankin, of the District of Columbia Superior Court, on June 25, 2010. He faces between 6 and 24 months in prison under the voluntary Superior Court Sentencing Guidelines.

At the plea hearing, Wake admitted that he served as a van driver for a company that had a contract to transport elderly clients to a daily program for senior citizens suffering from depression. Wake transported the 75-year-old victim, who lives in the District of Columbia, to the day program on several days in January 2010. On February 1, 2010, Wake called the victim and asked if she would like to be transported to the program. The victim told Wake that she was not feeling well, had tingling in her arms, and, therefore, would not be attending the program. At a later point that day, Wake came to the victim's apartment in Southeast Washington, D.C. He offered to massage the victim's arms and legs to alleviate the tingling. The victim allowed him to do so while she sat in a living room chair. After a few minutes, Wake suggested that the victim move to her bed to make the massage more effective. Wake then stood at the side of the victim's bed and massaged her arms and legs. Wake pulled up the victim's nightgown and engaged in a sexual act with the victim, and then left the victim's apartment.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the hard work of Metropolitan Police Department Detective William Weeks. He also recognized the critical and dedicated work of victim advocate Veronica Vaughan in this case, and the work of victim/witness specialist Debra Cannon, paralegal Eugena Johnson, and legal assistant Charmonique Price. Lastly, he praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Brooker, who investigated and is prosecuting the case.

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